

Date: January 13, 2009

To: Warden Adler

From: Inmate Michael G. Santos
#16377-004

Regarding: Typewriters Policy at Camp

On 8 January 2009, a new memorandum at Telford Camp prohibited inmates from using typewriters for anything other than correspondence with courts. I write with hopes that you will rescind that order. As a consequence of this rule change, the typewriters sit empty. In fact, as I write this letter, all five typewriters are open. This rule further obstructs inmates who strive to prepare for successful re-entry by nurturing strong ties with society.

As you know, rules limit us to 10 minutes of daily telephone access. A highly restrictive visiting-point schedule provides for a maximum of one weekly visit. Such strict limitations challenge inmates who strive to hold families together and nurture community ties.

Throughout my 21-plus years in prison, I have relied upon typewriters to overcome the many obstacles wrought by confinement. Typewriters have helped me build a strong network that will assist my re-entry into society. Denying access to typewriters obstructs every inmates' ability to connect with society.

This new rule belies MTC's stated mission of preparing offenders for successful re-entry. If costs are an issue, then perhaps you will consider selling ribbons in the commissary as BOP facilities do. What lessons should inmates draw from an infrastructure that supports Bingo, table games, and television, yet denies typewriters access that can help inmates prepare for the challenges that will follow release?